

14 ROLAND PARSONS: All right. Thank you. [I'm /
15 retired after 30 years of employment in the commercial
16 nuclear power industry. I've held positions of
17 responsibility in the nuclear industry and construction,
18 engineering, and operations for about 30 years. I've
19 worked as an engineer or manager on seven different nuclear
20 power plants.

21 My nuclear experience started in 1966 on a
22 nuclear plant in South Carolina and continued on various
23 plants into the 1990s. During my years in the industry,
24 I've worked with and within organizations totaling
25 thousands of nuclear professionals.

1 I'm here on my own because I'm concerned that
2 so much of the fault finding of nuclear industry
3 activists reflects unfairly on nuclear workers. Most of
4 the industry criticism by nuclear proponents ultimately
5 operate by insinuation to question the competence and
6 dedication of the men and women working in the industry,
7 and I resent this.

8 The nuclear workforce does not get the
9 recognition they deserve for working hard and playing by
10 the procedures and achieving a record of performance
11 second to none. My nuclear industry experience
12 convinced me that the nuclear workforce consistently
13 puts safety above all else, even profits.

14 Indeed, in the nuclear industry, there can be
15 no profits without absolute dedication to the principle
16 of safety first. As the DOE and NRC go through the

17 process of evaluating the documents relating to
18 Yucca Mountain, I predict the decision makers will hear
19 many allegations attempting to call into question the
20 skills, dedication, and motives of the plant operating
21 personnel, the maintenance workers, nuclear engineering,
22 transportation workers, and the union craft workers.

23 As you hear such allegations, I hope you'll
24 consider that in the context of the facts which
25 demonstrate the excellent performance of the workers and
1 portray a dedication to safety above all else. They are
2 good people.

3 Consider that there are probably around 60,000
4 nuclear workers in more than 100-plus plants who are
5 operating the plants maintaining the plants, refueling
6 and handling used nuclear fuel every 12 or 24 months,
7 and transporting partially used nuclear fuel to storage
8 locations.

9 Nuclear plant personnel have been doing this
10 for the past 30 years or past 20 years, and some reactor
11 operations and fuel transfers have been ongoing for more
12 than 30 years. During this time, the nuclear workforce
13 has not harmed any member of the public in the
14 commercial nuclear power industry. The same cannot be
15 said for any other significant energy source.

16 I hope this perspective does not get lost in
17 the decision-making process concerning Yucca Mountain,
18 and thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak.]